

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13. Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11 and 13-15 are pending in the above-referenced patent application.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13 in order to more appropriately define their invention. In particular, prior to this Amendment, each of these claims depended from a cancelled base claim, but as indicated above, each has been amended herein to incorporate subject matter from the independent claims from which they depend, thereby placing each of these claims in independent form, and obviating the Examiner's rejection under Section 112.

The independent claims from which claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13 were cancelled in a Preliminary Amendment dated June 13, 2000. These claims were non-elected in response to a Restriction Requirement dated June 1, 1999, in parent application 09/144,434 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,122,561, upon which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120), and are presented for examination in the present case. Unfortunately, due to an oversight, these claims were not placed in independent form in the Preliminary Amendment, thereby resulting in the present rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

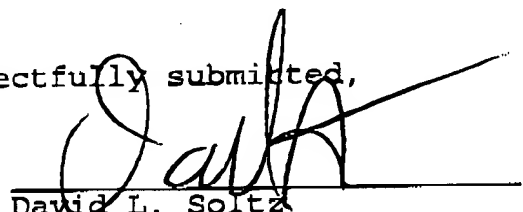
However, since the rejection under Section 112 is the only outstanding issue in this case, and further since this rejection has been overcome by the above amendments, Applicants submit that

the present application is in condition for allowance. A timely issuance of a notice of allowance is earnestly requested.

Please charge a one-month extension fee of \$110.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0308. Please also charge an extra claim fee of \$240.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b) to our Deposit Account. If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13, as follows:

2. (Amended) [The optical module carrier of claim 1, further comprising] An optical module carrier for conveying an optical module to one or more stations in an optical test circuit, said optical module carrier comprising:

, a tray having a top surface for supporting the optical module;

a plurality of rollers for conveying said tray, said rollers each mounted in a bottom surface of said tray, each of said rollers extending a fixed distance below the bottom surface of said tray; and

vertical pillars for securing said optical module on the top surface of the optical module carrier.

5. (Amended) [The optical module carrier of claim 1, further comprising] An optical module carrier for conveying an optical module to one or more stations in an optical test circuit, said optical module carrier comprising:

a tray having a top surface for supporting the optical module;

a plurality of rollers for conveying said tray, said rollers each mounted in a bottom surface of said tray, each of said rollers extending a fixed distance below the bottom surface of said tray; and

a plurality of springs corresponding to said plurality of rollers, each of said springs mounted in the bottom surface of said tray between said plurality of rollers and said optical module carrier.

8. (Amended) [The optical module carrier of claim 7, further comprising] An optical module carrier for conveying an optical module to one or more stations in an optical test circuit, said carrier comprising:

base means for supporting the optical module, said base means having a top surface and a bottom surface;

securing means for securing the optical module to the top surface of said base means;

rolling means for conveying said base means, said rolling means attached to the bottom surface of said base means, said rolling means extending a fixed distance below the bottom surface of said base means; and

means for elevating said optical module a desired distance above the bottom surface of said base means.

9. (Amended) [The optical module carrier of claim 7,] An optical module carrier for conveying an optical module to one or more stations in an optical test circuit, said carrier comprising:

base means for supporting the optical module, said base means having a top surface and a bottom surface;

securing means for securing the optical module to the top surface of said base means;

rolling means for conveying said base means, said rolling

means attached to the bottom surface of said base means, said rolling means extending a fixed distance below the bottom surface of said base means, wherein said rolling means comprises a plurality of balls.

11. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 10] An apparatus for inspecting an optical device on an optical module, comprising:
an optical platform;
an inspection station disposed along a top surface of said optical platform having an optical device interface located a fixed distance above the top surface of said optical platform; and
an optical module carrier for holding the optical module and conveying the optical module along the top surface of said optical platform to the inspection station, said optical module carrier positioning said optical device at a distance above the optical platform corresponding to the fixed distance said optical device interface is located above the top surface, wherein said optical platform has a top surface coated with a silicone based coating.

13. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 10] An apparatus for inspecting an optical device on an optical module, comprising:
an optical platform;
an inspection station disposed along a top surface of said optical platform having an optical device interface located a fixed distance above the top surface of said optical platform; and
an optical module carrier for holding the optical module and conveying the optical module along the top surface of said optical platform to the inspection station, said optical module carrier

positioning said optical device at a distance above the optical platform corresponding to the fixed distance said optical device interface is located above the top surface, wherein said optical module carrier further comprises:

a tray having a top surface for supporting the optical module; and

a plurality of rollers for conveying said tray, said rollers each mounted in a bottom surface of said tray, each of said rollers extending a fixed distance below the bottom surface of said tray.